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OPERATIONS CENTERPOLAND WORKING GROUP

Situation Report No. 5

Situation in Poland as of 0500 EST December 14, 1981

PA/PRESS

INR

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Thus far we have received no reports of clashes between demonstrators and police/army units. No violence seems to have occurred, save for the use of water cannons by Polish militia against demonstrators at Solidarity headquarters in Warsaw. Embassy Warsaw reports that the night of December 13-14 appears to have passed quietly in the capital. Despite a Deputy Foreign Minister's indication to our CHarge' that the 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. curfew would be "inflexibly" enforced, the Embassy observed some pedestrians and a surprisingly large number of private cars on the streets during the night.

During the period of the curfew, Government forces reoccupied the headquarters of the Warsaw Solidarity chapter. All banners had been removed from the building during the night. As of 10:30 Warsaw time (0430 EST), the Polish National Guard had posted sentries at all gates of the U.S. Embassy; the guards were checking i.d.'s and only allowing U.S. citizens to enter.

We can not yet judge the overall response to Solidarity's call for a general strike. Early-morning reports from the Embassy indicate that Warsaw streets are calm, with people apparently on their way to work. No strike banners were in evidence around the small number of factories observed by our Embassy this morning, and there was no conspicuous police or military presence in the factory yards. There appear to be fewer roadblocks in Warsaw. Food lines appeared longer than usual to Embassy observers.

Should a large segment of the union's 10 million members strike -- either by failing to appear for work or by occupying factories as in August 1980 -- the regime would face the choice of either trying forcibly to suppress the strike, with all the dangers that would entail, or of seeking a negotiated solution with Solidarity. In an apparent effort to avert confrontation on the campuses, all Polish schools have been closed today.

State Dept. review completed

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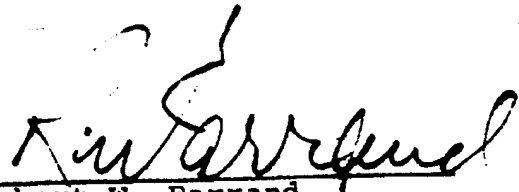
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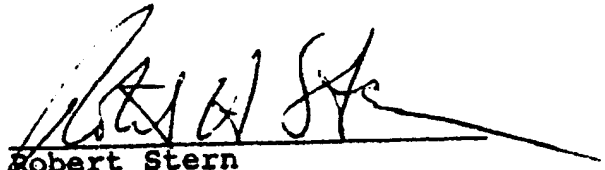
The situation in Krakow appears to be less quiet than that in Warsaw. Embassy Warsaw reports that steelworkers have begun an occupation strike at the Nowa Huta works. The students' association at the Krakow University has demanded that martial law be lifted and called for an "absentee strike" of classes. AmConsul Krakow reports that all U.S. citizens in the city are safe, and are having no difficulties entering the consulate.

Western press reports, citing sources in the Polish press, indicate that the authorities are attempting to persuade Lech Walesa to appear on Polish television, we presume to discourage workers from carrying out a general strike. Indicative, perhaps, of a government effort to continue negotiations with Solidarity, a Trybuna Ludu commentary declared that "good will and the efforts of the Party and Government to unite all patriotic forces...have not been exhausted." A Polish Press Agency commentary, however, warned that "martial law can last for a long or short time," depending on the "development of the situation." The Government has announced that all trade union activity has been suspended, and that trade union functionaries will be permitted to seek other jobs.

The Italian Communist Party has sharply condemned the Polish regime's imposition of martial law, calling for immediate restitution of civil liberties and union rights, and terming democracy and socialism "indivisible."

The Soviet media have given heavy coverage to the imposition of martial law in Poland, but thus far this has been confined to selective replays of materials from Polish government and press sources.

  
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